

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-06 EB-07 COME-00 STR-01

NIC-01 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5267

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD ESTC CU CA

SUBJ ALLEGED U.S. ATTEMPT TO BAR CANADIAN SALE OF
OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO CUBA

REFS A) OTTAWA 4148; B) DECEMBER 23 KRUSE-MELLOR TELECON

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL DECEMBER 23 FRONT-PAGES WITH TORONTO
CP DATELINE ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY AS REPORTED REFTEL.
ARTICLE ENTITLED "'ENEMY ACT' BREACHED - U.S.
MAY SNUFF OUT CUBAN TRADE BID."

2. FOLLOWING KRUSE-MELLOR TELECON, EMBOFF AGAIN CONTACTED
JAMES TAYLOR, DIRECTOR, WESTERN HEMISPHERE BUREAU IN
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE (ITC) TO ASK WHAT ADDITIONAL
HARD FACTS GOC HAD ACQUIRED. TAYLOR SAID PRACTICALLY
ALL OF ITC'S INFORMATION STILL BASED ON STATEMENTS OF
PHILLIPS, WHO TOLD ITC THAT COLE OF TORONTO RECEIVED
LETTER FROM LITTON (PARENT FIRM) STATING THAT U.S.
TREASURY LICENSE DENIED. TAYLOR GRATEFUL FOR EMBOFF'S
TENTATIVE AND PRELIMINARY ADVICE (REF B) THAT NEITHER
STATE NOR TREASURY DEPARTMENTS HAD BEEN ABLE TO
LOCATE ANY RECORD OF LITTON APPLICATION AS OF
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MID-AFTERNOON TODAY.

3. TAYLOR SAID THAT GOC UNDER SUCH PUBLIC PRESSURE THAT STATEMENT OF ITS POSITION ALONG LINES REPORTED REFTEL PROBABLY WOULD BE ISSUED BY ITC MINISTER GILLESPIE TODAY.

4. TAYLOR ALSO AMPLIFIED INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 7 REFTEL. HE SAID REPORT FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY HAVANNA THAT "THINGS WERE UNSTUCK" WAS IN NATURE OF LOW-KEY COMMERCIAL REPORT AND NOT REPEAT NOT CONVEY ANY COMPLAINT FROM CUBAN GOVERNMENT, AS ASSERTED IN TODAY'S GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE. HE SAID ITC SIMPLY HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THIS POTENTIAL "BIG-TICKET" SALE TO CUBA WITH POSITIVE INTEREST.

5. IN LATE MORNING TELECON, GLEN SHORTLIFFE, DIRECTOR, U.S. DIVISION, EXTAFF, TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOC OFFICIALS WERE THEN MEETING TO DISCUSS SUBJECT (AND UNDOUBTEDLY CONTENT OF GOC PUBLIC STATEMENT TO BE MADE TODAY).
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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